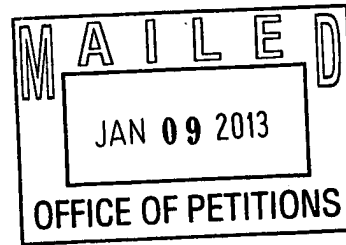




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303



In re Patent No. 5,988,171	:	
Issue Date: November 23, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/883,220	:	ON PETITION
Filed: June 26, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. 2117.034	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 20, 2012, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on November 24, 2011 for failure to pay the 11 ½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Petitioner has submitted the \$4,730.00 11 ½ year maintenance fee and the \$1,640.00 surcharge where late payment was unintentional.

All of the requirements under 37 CFR 1.378(c) being met, the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is noted petitioner authorized payment of a \$150.00 surcharge. This fee was not charged because it is only due when late payment is proffered during the 6 month grace period. It is not required after a patent's expiration.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions